

FLEDGE LEDGE EDGE

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As a new contributor I have to admit I got here by turnip truck (three decades of serious writing). But then I saw Word Ways, and the tail gate opened. Also the flood gate. With such endless wordplay possibilities, can even the veterans remember all the moves? And newcomers certainly need an introduction.

1 UNIVOCALS: So long, old "a,e,i,y,u!"
 Mustn't put a,e,i,o,y."
 If it's with "a,e,u,y,o"
 Best rest the "y,a,u,o,i."
 Sly try by "e,i,o,u,a."
 Can't want an "i,o,u,y,e."
 Ascetic, stoutly de-iouya!
 My, but nothing's left, ta-t'....

2 UNIGENDER: In the Beginning, God created Personkind...Neither this nor that created It them. No, "son's" not right' it has gender. So It created Upwardly-Mobile Mammalkind. No, "kind's" not right; cattle are that, and we often aren't. So It created Husapienty. No, "sapient's" not right; we usually aren't that either but lots of cattle are. So, It created Two-Footed Opposing-Thumbs Vertically-Spined Bi-Cerebral-Hemisphered Verbally-Communicative Creaturehood. Wait, that's Creationism. Man! I'd better skip it.

3 LIPO-NYMORHYMES: A. Ross Eckler almost did Mary Had A Little Lamb to the point where it couldn't be done any more, each time with a different vowel removed (that's a lipogram). But veterinarians report that four out of six American pet-owners do not have lambs. Thus nymorhymes should not use four out of six vowels! (Nor lambs.)

Murphy put up grubby mutt.
 Fur's slush-ugly rust,
 Murph gulfs ruts unfussy but
 Tug puppy, Murphy must.
 Pup ups, uncurls, ungustfully
 Hups. Duty (Murph's) uncut,
 Turns fun! But hush. Untrustfully
 Thud dull truth's cuffs: "Mush! mutt!"

4 CRYPTO-OMISSION: What isn't there is what is! "Francis's cot trod eon;
 Don's hot so met Urp at Ted, Mon. play. Ed boar'd bad. No to Do,
 locked, ho! in the Po." (But the missing are ---.)

Francis Scott --- rode on don---,
 Shot some tur---, patted mon---,
 Played ---board bad (not o--- do---!)
 --- locked ---, ho---, in the po---.

Here's a holiday challenge that will keep you busy til next year! Back 14 generations in Luke's Gospel (Luke 3:26) counting Jesus as number one, is a name that isn't a name, Maath. Now look at I Maccabees 2: 1-6 for your key and an

5 ACRONYM: Maccabeus, Avaran, Apphus, THassi = MAATH! (TH is one letter in Greek and Hebrew.) But it's I Maccabees' unused fifth name, Gaddi, the writer of Luke is pointing to. With the help of a concordance you can track him through the Old Testament and Apocrypha and you will find the name of the Essenic Teacher of Righteousness (no, it's not Jesus). The Essenes mastered the unseen in their writings, and never named their Teacher outright. And when looking at Matthew's genealogy, it also doesn't hurt to think

6 GEOMETRICS: Making something look like what it's about, like "Vine of Life" in the August issue? Or writing The Night Before Christmas in the shape of a Christmas tree, as done in the November 1973 Word Ways? You have to be cross-eyed drunk to read The X-Phile, or Close-Encountered Word Associations When Christmas-Shopping Macy's Drunk:

Gimbel		Gimbel
Gimble		Gumbel
Gambol		Game ball
Gum ball		Gamble
Gumboil		Gambrel
Gargle		Gurgle
Garble		Gobble
Grumble		Goglet
Gremlin		Goblet
	GIMLET	
Goblin		Giglet
Goggle		Gobel
Google		Gabble
Gargoyle		Gaggle
Gable		Gobbler
Grable		Globule
Gabler		Global
Grabble		Gimbal
Gimbel		Gimbel

7 WORD-OPPOSITE PARODIES: Staying sober on the night before Christmas but losing it at Lent:

Comes morn after Good Friday
 Anytime on these flats,

All of Chaos moves restless;
 Especially the cats ...
 No old folks are rising,
 Some cold, from my throws --
 Not when, blind to sour grapes,
 They lie on my toes!

8 ABC LANGUAGE What U R reduced 2 F U can't type 2 lderfulE

9 QWERTY: You type upper row, yet you're tri-tier poor. Pity! Trip to typewriter proprietor to re-equip, you rupture your toe. (Yipe! Ow!)

10 QWERTY PLUS #S: Well, I tout it, I yell it! Yippy Yule! Perpetr8 1 gr8 1997 too! lot poultry? liquor? Roque4t? Ripple? 9!! Eye w8, roly-poly! Perpetu8 propriety, piety too -- it 7-ly. O, I reiter8, we're 4 your Tip-top Yippy Yule! Perpetr8 1 top-r8 1997, too!

Pledge Ledge Edge will see you in February for ten more wordplays.